Distr.
LIMITED

IPCT.24
7 April 1987

ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Global Preparatory Meeting
for the First Consultation
on the Fisheries Industry

Mexico City, Mexico, 26-29 January 1987

REPORT*

---

* This document has been reproduced without formal editing.

V.87-83975

PREFACE

System of Consultations

The Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), held at Lima (Peru) in March 1975, recommended that UNIDO should include in its activities a system of continuous consultations between developed and developing countries with the aim of increasing the participation of the latter in world industrial production by means of enhanced international co-operation. Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly, at its Seventh Special Session in September 1975, supported this recommendation.

In May 1980, the Industrial Development Board decided to establish the System of Consultations on a permanent basis, and in May 1982 approved the rules thereof (The System of Consultations, PI./84) stipulating its principles, objectives and characteristics, in particular:

> "The System of Consultations shall relate to co-operation between developed and developing countries and among developing countries themselves.
>
> The System of Consultations would also permit negotiations among interested parties at their request, at the same time as or after consultations.
>
> Participants of each member country should include officials of Governments as well as representatives of industry, labour, consumer groups and others, as deemed appropriate by each Government.
>
> Each Consultation meeting shall formulate a report, which shall include conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by consensus and also other significant views expressed during the discussions."

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
PREFACE		ii
INTRODUCTION	1- 8	1
AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	9-15	3
Chapter		
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING	16-27	5
II. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS	28-39	7
III. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING	40-43	8
Annexes		
I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS		9
II. AGENDA		12
III. LIST OF DOCUMENTS		13

INTRODUCTION

First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry

1. At its nineteenth session in May 1985, the Industrial Development Board decided to include the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry in the programme of consultation meetings for the biennium 1986-1987.

2. In accordance with the above-mentioned decision and the established work programme, the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry will be convened in Gdansk, Poland (1-5 June 1987) and will be co-sponsored with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Background to the First Consultation

3. Prior to the decision of the IDB, an ad hoc Expert Group Meeting was held in Vienna in February 1984 to identify priority areas in which international co-operation in the fisheries industry was possible and desirable. Areas identified included shipbuilding, harvesting techniques and equipment manufacture, fish processing and preservation, storage, packaging and transport, and marketing, as well as scientific research and training.

4. During 1986, Regional Preparatory Meetings for Latin America and Africa were held in June and September respectively, in order to:

(a) Discuss the present situation on the fisheries industry in the region and its potential for expansion within the framework of the Exclusive Economic Zone, established by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(b) Identify common and particular constraints which hamper the development of this industry in the developing countries of the region;

(c) Examine and propose ways and means for international co-operation and action needed to overcome identified constraints;

(d) Select specific issues for further elaboration to be discussed at the Global Preparatory Meeting and for possible inclusion for submission to the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry.

5. The Global Preparatory Meeting was organized by UNIDO in close co-operation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and was hosted by the Government of Mexico.

6. The purpose of the Global Preparatory Meeting was to advise the UNIDO secretariat on the selection of the issues that might be considered at the First Consultation.

7. Regional surveys on the situation of the fisheries industry in Africa, Asia and Latin America have been prepared by the UNIDO secretariat.

8. On the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Preparatory Meetings and of the work carried out by the secretariat, UNIDO selected the following issues as a basis for the deliberations of the Global Preparatory Meeting:

Issue 1: Modernization of boats and fishing equipment, including:

(a) Small-scale fishing boats;
(b) Industrial fishing vessels;
(c) Fishing gear and equipment;
(d) Maintenance and ship repair facilities;
(e) Standardization and improvement of engines for small fishing boats.

Issue 2: Add-value to fish products, including:

(a) Small-scale processing;
(b) Industrial processing;
(c) Awareness and choice of adequate processing technologies;
(d) The need to improve and disseminate preservation techniques, including low-cost cold chains;
(e) Training of technicians in refrigeration, electronic and processing techniques;
(f) Product development and packaging, quality control.

Issue 3: Marketing, including:

(a) Development of domestic and export markets;
(b) Improvement of marketing channels and marketing systems;
(c) Promotion of domestic consumption.

AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Preamble

9. The Regional Preparatory Meetings and the Global Preparatory Meeting in Mexico identified the need to foster the development of fisheries, using technologies adapted to the conditions that exist in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

10. Emphasis was placed on the fundamental importance of improving and modernizing production methods - while working simultaneously towards technological self-sufficiency - in accordance with the social and economic situation in each country.

11. With the aim of meeting the foregoing objectives, it was recognized that:

(a) Improvement and modernization should be viewed in the sense of obtaining low-cost products, proper handling, processing, preservation and transportation, applying mainly to domestic markets, and also in the sense of achieving the best possible competitiveness in external markets;

(b) Optimal utilization of resources should be related to the minimization of post-harvest losses as well as improvement of the nutritional value of fishery products, giving priority to the production of food for direct human consumption;

(c) Small-scale fisheries in many developing countries contribute the bulk of the fish for direct human consumption, with a comparatively low technical level and technology. There may, therefore, be considerable scope for improvement;

(d) Where small-scale fisheries could not cover the optimum utilization of the resources in the national EEZ, industrial fisheries and national industrial capabilities should be developed appropriately;

(e) One of the main constraints to development was the acute shortage of qualified manpower and that there was a need for medium and long-term training, especially in all areas of management, fish processing, refrigeration, electronics, etc.;

(f) In the area of research there was a need to strengthen international co-operation, with special emphasis on regional co-operation. That particularly refers to resources management, fishing and fish technology, marketing and the economic implications of development in fisheries.

12. Furthermore, it was recognized that the same constraints apply, in many cases, to the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture, the importance of which in many countries, especially in Asia, was fully recognized.

13. A constraint to development, especially in small-scale activities in fisheries, was the absence of an appropriate financing mechanism to provide the much needed credit. There was the opportunity and need for closer collaboration between national, regional and international financing institutions to seek ways and means of overcoming that problem.

14. Development was contingent on the presence of an efficient institutional environment, at the national, regional and international levels.

Recommendations

15. Taking note of the complexity and wide diversification of all aspects of the fishing industry, experts at the Global Meeting identified the following two main groups of issues connected with industrialization of the fishery sector which should be addressed by the Consultation on the Fisheries Industry at Gdansk, in Poland:

Issue 1: Improvement and modernization of boats and fishing equipment to increase productivity and efficiency

(a) Small-scale fishing boats;
(b) Industrial fishing vessels;
(c) Fishing gear and equipment;
(d) On-board handling facilities and techniques;
(e) Engines for small-scale fishing boats;
(f) Maintenance and ship repair facilities;
(g) Training, including electronics.

Issue 2: Improvement of the fish production chain and the increase of added-value

(a) Awareness and choice of adequate processing technologies
  (i) Small-scale processing;
  (ii) Industrial processing;
(b) The need to improve and disseminate proper handling and preservation techniques, including low-cost cold chains;
(c) Training of the technicians in fish processing and refrigeration;
(d) Product development, packaging, fish inspection and quality control for quality assurance;
(e) Market development and improvement of marketing channels and systems for domestic as well as export markets.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

16. The Global Preparatory Meeting for the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry was held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 26-29 January 1987.

17. The meeting was attended by 22 experts from 17 countries, 2 observers from developing countries, representatives of OLDEPESCA, FAO and UNIDO (the List of participants appears under Annex I).

Opening of the meeting

18. At the opening of the meeting, the Director of the UNIDO System of Consultations took the floor to thank the experts for their participation and co-operation in assisting UNIDO in the task of defining the topics to be presented at the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry.

19. In his presentation, he emphasized the fact that in spite of the fishing industries' substantial contribution as regards production in many countries, and of its providing employment to approximately 16 million persons, and that although it is a primary source of food for many peoples of the world, it has not received the attention it deserves by the international community.

20. He also underlined the objective of the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry which is to aid the developing countries to effectively make use of their sovereignty as regards the Exclusive Economic Zone.

21. In concluding his address, he expressed appreciation to the Government of Mexico for its generosity in hosting the meeting, and pointed out the special significance that the manifested interest of a country such as Mexico in an event of this nature has, in as much as it is a country where the fishing industry has developed to such an extent during the last few years that it may well serve as an example for the developing countries.

22. The representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Mr. Rodrigo Duarte Torres also addressed the meeting. Recalling the leading role played by Mexico, when the Honourable Secretary was elected chairman of the FAO World Fisheries Conference in 1984, it was, he said, most fitting and generous of the Government of Mexico to host the Global Preparatory Meeting on the Fisheries Industry. The level of expertise that had been drawn together for that meeting, together with the leading position of Mexico in all aspects of fisheries development, set the scene for positive and constructive discussion and ensured a meaningful outcome to the meeting. In concluding, attention was again drawn to the advantages to be gained from intergovernmental, non-governmental and international agency collaboration as evinced by that gathering.

23. Mr. Juan José Cárdenas Ronco, Executive Director of OLDEPESCA, also took the floor during the Inaugural Session to point out the increasing importance that Latin American countries are attributing to this sector and the interest that they have in finding new forms of international co-operation.

24. He also declared that it was paradoxical for the developing countries to catch 70 per cent of total world production while their consumption of fish products was greatly below the world average. He added that the benefits of international trade were, likewise, distributed unfairly, inasmuch as developing countries sold non-processed products at low prices and were obliged to buy the industrialized products at high prices.

25. The last speaker to take the floor at the Opening Session was Mr. Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Secretary of Fisheries of Mexico, who expressed a warm welcome to the participants and stressed the importance of promoting the fishing industry in the developing countries; he declared that the fishing industry was a lever in the political, economic and social development of all peoples and a determining factor for coastal countries to put into practice and consolidate their sovereignty as regards their resources within the Exclusive Economic Zones.

26. He also said that fishing was the best instrument of justice available to the peoples of the coastal countries for implementing their actions both at the national and international levels, and emphasized that the agreements of the United Nations on the Exclusive Economic Zones of the countries has strengthened the sovereignty of the coastal countries and enabled them to exercise that sovereignty as regards their maritime resources.

27. After thanking the participants for their attendance, he emphasized that it was a privilege for Mexico to be the seat of a meeting of experts from countries of Latin America, Africa, and Asia and the developed countries, and he acknowledged the support of UNIDO and FAO in its preparation.

Election of officers

28. Mr. José González Pedrero, Executive Secretary of the National Consulting Committee of the Fisheries Industry of Mexico, was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting.

29. A Drafting Committee was also appointed: it was constituted by Mr. Oscar do Porto (Argentina); Mr. Achmad Farid (Indonesia); Mr. Saleh Sadiq Osman (Tanzania); Mr. Jacques Weber (France); and Mr. Ireneusz Wrzesniewski (Poland). Later, the Drafting Committee elected Mr. Jacques Weber (France) as its President.

Adoption of the agenda

30. The meeting adopted the agenda with amendments (see Annex II).

II. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

31. A representative of UNIDO explained the advances being made in the activities of technical assistance of that Organization and described the fields in which UNIDO is currently providing technical assistance or might provide it in the future.

32. Another representative of UNIDO explained the scope of the meeting, and emphasized that the primary objective was to assist UNIDO in the selection of the topics for consultation in the area of fisheries industry. He pointed out that it was a meeting attended by experts in their personal capacity and that the opinions expressed would in no way commit the institutions or the governments to which they belong.

33. An officer from UNIDO summarized the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the Regional Preparatory Meetings in Africa and Latin America and introduced the UNIDO document entitled "Possible issues to be submitted to the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry". He emphasized the importance of the fisheries industry from the point of view of its contribution towards the gross national product, employment and food supply. He also made reference to the impact that the introduction of the Exclusive Economic Zone has had in the production sector and pointed out that the developing countries had considerably increased their catch during the last few years, but that, at the same time, those countries having long-distance fleets that had previously fished in the territorial waters of the developing countries had likewise increased their catch. The document underlined the importance of small-scale fishing in many countries of Africa and Asia.

34. The UNIDO representative also referred to the main problems being faced by the fishing industry in the developing countries and emphasized the problems encountered as regards fishing fleets, processing and marketing.

35. The Chairman invited the participants to discuss the topics proposed by UNIDO and adopted for discussion at the meeting. The experts expressed their views regarding the importance of the items presented for consideration and agreed to the changes in the title and contents for topics 1 and 2. It was also agreed that, in order to expedite the task of the Working Groups, it would be advisable to eliminate item 3, a part of which was incorporated under item 2.

36. After the discussion of the contents of the items to be presented at the Consultation, the Chairman proposed that the Drafting Committee draw up a preamble summarizing the opinions expressed during the discussion to serve as a basis for structuring and selecting the topics.

37. The Drafting Committee subsequently presented its report for discussion and amendment to the Plenary Session.

38. The meeting approved the preamble and the recommendations in the form in which they appear in the first part of this report.

39. The Director of the System of Consultations of UNIDO expressed his satisfaction with the result of the sessions and stressed the importance of the selection of the issues and the definition of their content for the preparation of the Consultation.

III. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

40. The meeting was closed by the Secretary of Fisheries, Mr. Pedro Ojeda Paullada who congratulated the participants on the fruitful discussions and recommendations to the UNIDO secretariat.

41. The Chairman thanked the experts for their efforts in fulfilling the objectives of the meeting and indicated his appreciation for having been able to discuss the problems affecting the fisheries industry in the developing countries and in the unanimous approval of the issues to be recommended for consideration at the First Consultation.

42. Mr. Saleh Sadiq Osman, from Tanzania, expressed his thanks to the UNIDO secretariat for organizing and efficiently running the meeting and also thanked the Government of Mexico for having hosted the meeting and for the generous assistance offered to the participants.

43. On behalf of UNIDO, the Director of the UNIDO System of Consultations thanked the experts for their participation.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Argentina

Oscar Ramòn do Porto, Corrientes 23-7 - 3°B, 7600 Mar del Plata

Brazil

Francisco Chagas Machado Filho, Planning of Fishing Research, Av/W3 Norte, quadro 506, Edificio Da Pesca, Brasilia

Chile

Cèsar Varela Saèz, Chief, Division of Utilization, Institute of Fisheries Development (IFOP), Pedro de Valdivia 2633, Casilla 1287, Santiago

China

Tong Jing Wen, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Aquatic Products, Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries, 31 Min-Feng Lane, Xidan, Beijing

Cuba

Jorge Juan Terrè Diaz, Chief Specialist, Office of International Relations, Ministry of the Fisheries Industry, Barlovento, Playa Sta. Fè, La Habana

France

Jacques Weber, Chief of the Economic Department, French Research Institute for Utilization of Marine Resources (IFREMER), 66, avenue d'Ièna, 75116 Paris

India

R. Sathiarajan, Director, Integrated Fisheries Project, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, 682016 Cochin

Indonesia

Achmad Farid, Head, Fishing Technology Development Centre, BPPI, P.O. Box 218, Semarang

Mali

Amadou Konè, General Director, Fisheries Operations, P.O. Box 134, Mopti

Morocco

Mohammed Rouchdi, Head, Fisheries Production Division, Ministry of Sea Fisheries and the Merchant Marine, Rabat

Mexico

Silvia Cruz Ponce, Head, Department of Technical Fisheries Co-operation, Office of International Fisheries Affairs, Secretariat of Fisheries, Alvaro Obregòn 269, 8° Piso, 06700 Mexico, D.F.

Victor M. Gonzàlez Gòmez, Head, Department of International Fisheries Organizations and Meetings, Secretariat of Fisheries, Alvaro Obregòn 269, 8° Piso, 06700 Mexico, D.F.

Josè Gonzàlez Pedrero, Executive Secretary, National Fisheries Consultative Commission, Secretariat of Fisheries, Av. Alvaro Obregòn 269, 5° Piso, 06700 Mexico, D.F.

Alonso Lòpez Cruz, Director General, International Fisheries Affairs, Secretariat of Fisheries, Av. Alvaro Obregòn 269, 8° Piso, 06700 Mexico, D.F.

Dàmaso Luna Corona, Director, Multilateral Affairs, Office of International Fisheries Affairs, Secretariat of Fisheries, Alvaro Obregòn 269, 8° Piso, 06700 Mexico, D.F.

Peru

Fausto Lazo Galàn, Consultant, Ministry of Fishing, Paseo de la Repùblica 3103, San Isidro, Lima

Poland

Z.S. Karnicki, Deputy Director, Sea Fisheries Institute, ul. Zjednoczenia 1, 81-345 Gdynia

Czeslaw Stefaniak, Director, Central Union of Work Co-operatives, 47 Zurawia, 00-680 Warsaw

Ireneusz Wrzesniewski, Deputy Director, International Co-operation Department, Ministry of Maritime Economy, 00-950 Warsaw, ul. Hoza 20

Senegal

Bernard Codou Dioh, Director, Oceanography and Sea Fisheries, State Secretariat of Animal Resources, 1 Joris Street, P.O. Box 289, Dakar

United Republic of Tanzania

Saleh Sadiq Osman, Director of Fisheries, Ministry of Marine, Tourism and Forestry, P.O. Box 774, Zanzibar

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Peeter Tammoja, Chief, Section of the State Planning, Committee of the Estonian SSR, USSR Tallin Komsomoli Str. 1, 200103 Tallin

Specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Iain J.B. Robertson, Senior Fishery Industry Officer, Office of the Director, Fishery Industries Division, Food and Agriculture Organization, Room F-328, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

Other intergovernmental organizations

Latin American Organization of Fisheries Development

Juan Josè Càrdenas Ronco, Executive Director, Av. Aviaciòn 2555-A, Urb. San Borja, Apartado Postal 10168, Lima, Peru

Observers

Horacio Martin Dorval, Commercial Secretary, Embajada Argentina, Reforma 300, Desp. 605, Mexico, D.F.

Kulkumut Singhara, Commercial Attachè, Embajada de Thailandia, Sierra Vertientes 1030, Lomas de Chapultepec, Mexico, D.F.

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Election of the Chairman and adoption of the Agenda

3. Presentation of the Secretariat paper on possible issues for the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry

4. Consideration of main topics

   Issue 1: Modernization of boats and fishing equipment:

   (i) Small-scale fishing boats
   (ii) Industrial fishing vessels
   (iii) Fishing gear and equipment
   (iv) Maintenance and ship repair facilities
   (v) Standardization and improvement of engines for small fishing boats

   Issue 2: Add value to fish products, including:

   (i) Small-scale processing
   (ii) Industrial processing
   (iii) Awareness and choice of adequate processing technologies
   (iv) Need to improve and disseminate preservation techniques, including low-cost cold chains
   (v) Training of technicians in refrigeration, electronic and processing techniques
   (vi) Product development and packaging, quality control

   Issue 3: Marketing, including:

   (i) Development of domestic and export markets
   (ii) Improvement of marketing channels and marketing systems
   (iii) Promotion of domestic consumption

5. Recommendations of main issues to be discussed at the Consultation

6. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Provisional agenda	—
Possible issues to be submitted to the First Consultation on the Fisheries Industry Prepared by the UNIDO secretariat	—
Draft of the expanded Summary of the possible issues related to the development of the harvesting sector of the Fisheries Industry Prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	—
Informe Regional sobre la Industria Pesquera en Latinoamericana Prepared for UNIDO by Oscar do Porto, consultant	UNIDO/PC.135
The Fisheries Sector in the countries of Africa Prepared for UNIDO by Jacques Weber and Henri Durand, consultants	IPCT.2
The Fisheries Industry in selected Asian countries Prepared for UNIDO by INFOFISH	—
Report - Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean Lima, Peru, 27-30 May 1986	UNIDO/PC.148
Report - Regional Meeting for Africa Dakar, Senegal, 16-19 September 1986	IPCT.3

* * * * *